

men possess some of a different character mix themselves. The

most remarkable are indolence, extravagance and infidelity.

Cure the first two and the last would disappear, because it is a

consequence of them and not proceeding from a want of morals.

I know of no remedy against indolence and extravagance but

a free course of justice unobstructed. The maxim of buying

nothing without the money in our pocket would make of our

country one of the happiest upon earth. * * *

Desperate

of finding relief from a free course of justice, I look forward

to the abolition of all credit as the only other remedy which

can take place. I have seen, therefore, the pleasure the exag-

gerations of our want of faith with which the London papers

teem. It is indeed a strong medicine for sensible minds, but it

is a medicine. It will prevent their crediting us abroad, in

which case we cannot be credited at home.

(From a letter to \ A. Donald, written from Paris, 1787. F. IV., 414.) s

CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS.—In forming a scale of crimes and punishments, two considerations have considerable weight. I. The atrocity of the crime. 2. The peculiar circumstances of a country which furnish greater temptations to commit it, or greater facilities for escaping detection. The punishment must be heavier to counterbalance this. Was the first the only consideration, all nations would form the same scale. But as the circumstances of a country have influence on the punishment, and no two countries exist precisely under the same circumstances, no two countries will form the same scale of crimes and punishments. For example, in America the inhabitants let their horses go at large in the unclosed lands which are so extensive as to maintain them altogether. It is easy, therefore, to steal them and easy to escape. Therefore, the laws are obliged to oppose these temptations with a heavier degree of punishment. For this reason

the stealing of a horse in America is punished more severely than stealing the same value in any other form. In Europe, where horses are confined so securely that it is impossible to steal them, that species of theft need not be punished more severely than any other. In some countries of Europe, stealing fruit from trees is punished capitally.